



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

EIS001484

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February 8, 2000

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Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
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**SUBJECT: North Dakota Public Service Commission Comments
on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic
Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and
High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain,
Nye County, Nevada**

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The North Dakota Public Service Commission appreciates this opportunity to comment on the U. S. DOE Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. The purpose of our comments is to oppose the no-action alternatives set forth in the draft.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a three-member body created by the constitution of the State of North Dakota and is statutorily charged with the duty to regulate rates and charges for the sale of electricity to consumers within North Dakota.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission's interest in this matter arises from its regulatory responsibilities to ensure the reasonableness of rates charged by Northern States Power Company (NSP) for electric service in North Dakota. NSP is a Minnesota electric company that operates two nuclear generation plants and serves approximately 80,000 retail customers in North Dakota.

1 The North Dakota Public Service Commission has allowed contributions to the federal nuclear waste fund to be included in the rates NSP charges for electric service in North Dakota. As a result, North Dakota consumers have contributed substantially to development of the Yucca Mountain project and a long term solution to the nuclear waste disposal problem. It is for this reason, and for the reason that the fund was established in the first place, that we oppose the no action alternatives outlined in the draft EIS.


Post-It® Fax Note 7671		Date 2/8/00	# of pages 2
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We do not oppose including the no-action alternatives in the final EIS. We believe the no-action alternatives provide a base-line perspective from which to compare the benefits of a geologic repository to other alternatives, and that the documentation in the draft EIS is sufficient to conclude that no-action is not an acceptable solution.

Sincerely,


Susan E. Wesfeld
Commissioner


Bruce Hagen
President


Leo M. Reinbold
Commissioner